


REMARKS

Claims 1 through 7 were presented for examination. The Examiner has allowed claims 1 through 4, 6 and 7. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,617,490. The Examiner states that the reference discloses 1,3-propane diol as the cybent for the filtering solutions described in the reference and that the reference teaches that the solution acts not only as a filtering medium but is an excellent for the tube during operation while rendering the tube resistant to freezing during storage.

The Applicants have canceled claim 5 and thus assert that the rejection is moot. The cancellation of claim 5 does not constitute an admission that claim 5 is obvious but rather the Applicants wish to maintain the option to pursue claim 5 in a continuing application. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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